1 2 3 4 5 6	David H.S. Commins (CSBN 124205) Kenneth C. Webster (CSBN 179058) COMMINS & WEBSTER, P.C. 400 Montgomery Street, Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94104 Tel (415) 391-6490 Fax (415) 391-6493 david@commins.com ken@commins.com Attorneys for Plaintiff		
7	Shoreline Capital Management, Ltd.		
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
10	SAN JOSE DIVISION		
11			
12	SHORELINE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT,	JW CV 08 0121	
13	LTD., a British Virgin Islands company limited by shares,,	No.	
14	Plaintiff,	SHORELINE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LTD.'S <i>EX PARTE</i> APPLICATION FOR	
15	VS.	TRO AND OSC RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION, AND FOR ORDER	
16 17	XIAOBING SUN, an individual, also known as DANIEL SUN,	GRANTING LEAVE TO CONDUCT EXPEDITED DISCOVERY	
18	Defendant.		
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
	1		

SHORELINE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LTD.'S *EX PARTE* APPLICATION FOR TRO AND OSC RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND FOR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY ORDER

4

5

6

7

8

10

9

11

12 13

14 15

16 17

18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25 26

27 28

Shoreline Capital Management, Ltd. (Shoreline) hereby applies to the Court for a Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause re Preliminary Injunction, and for an Order Granting Leave to Conduct Expedited Discovery.

- 1. Shoreline is a British Virgin Islands company limited by shares with its principal place of business in Guangzhou, China that conducts business in China through its wholly owned subsidiary, Shoreline Capital Consulting (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. (Shoreline (Shenzhen)). Shoreline is a private investment firm that manages assets for institutional investors through investments in distressed assets in China. All of its investors are in the United States and some of its largest investors are in San Francisco. (Accompanying Declaration of Benjamin Fanger, ¶¶ 2-4.)
- 2. Shoreline has a unique business model. Its primary asset is a particular financial model (the Shoreline Pricing Model) that took three and one-half years to develop, including many hundreds of hours by skilled and experienced financial people and hundreds of thousands of dollars. It has used this single model to invest over 76 million dollars in loans with principal balances of over 1.5 billion dollars. All of its deals are based on this financial model, which is articulated in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. (Fanger Decl., ¶¶ 2-4.)
- 3. Shoreline employs over 25 people who work mostly in China with its wholly owned subsidiary, Shoreline (Shenzhen)¹, but two of whom work principally in Campbell, California. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 2.) Most have executed non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and, as part of their employment agreements, have countersigned employment agreement letters. In those letters they have agreed not to resign and, within a period of two years following their departure from Shoreline, compete with Shoreline in the non-performing loan or distressed real

- 1 -

¹ Guangzhou United (GU) is the onshore agent of Shoreline Shenzhen and officially employees Shoreline Shenzhen's workers. GU's agency contract with Shoreline Shenzhen is for the sole purpose of employing Shoreline personnel and it is 100% funded by Shoreline. (See, for example, Declaration of Linlin Gong, ¶ 1.)

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	

estate investment area in China. And all of these employees have agreed to keep strictly confidential all corporate documents, files, business-secrets and know-how. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 5.) What is more, all of Shoreline's employees, including Mr. Sun, have received the Employment Handbook. (Fanger Decl., ¶¶ 5 and 13; Declaration of Weihong Ye, ¶ 3; Declaration of Yonghui Wu, ¶ 3; Declaration of Wei Wang, ¶ 3; Declaration of Linlin Gong, ¶ 3.)

4. Shoreline included strong confidentiality language in its Employment Handbook to give notice of the highly confidential nature of its proprietary information to its employees. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 5.) It requires employees to avoid conduct that could harm the company and prohibits use of Shoreline's name except when doing business for Shoreline:

Article 8: Employee Conduct: Employees should use professional judgment and avoid any conduct that violates or potentially harms the best interests of the Company. Without prior approval, employees must only use the Company's name or their titles when doing business for the Company.

The Employment Handbook also requires employees to maintain the confidentiality of Shoreline's proprietary and trade secret information:

27

28

Article 9: Confidentiality: Employees shall follow and implement the Company's confidentiality rules at all times. All information obtained by employees, including, but not limited to, asset/portfolio information, debtor information, asset servicing strategies, debt collection status, models and forms of any kind used by the Company, investment return models, evaluation models and all other related information cannot be revealed to persons outside the team, including any other employees within the Company that are not directly related to the cases in which the information is used. [A translation (from Mandarin) of these portions of the Handbook is attached as Ex. D to the Fanger Decl.]

5.

Over the last four years, Shoreline has developed relationships with sellers of

1 2 distressed assets in China. In particular, it has developed close relationships with each of the 3 four state-owned asset management companies that are the only institutions permitted to sell 4 5 6 7

9

10

8

11

13

12

14 15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26

27 28 distressed debt at a discount in China. Two of these, Huarong Asset Management Company (Huarong) and Cinda Asset Management Company (Cinda), are particularly inclined to work with Shoreline because Shoreline has purchased multiple portfolios from each of them. As part of its deal sourcing activities, Shoreline has set up a deal sourcing team that has created a list of potential portfolios for investment (Potential Investment List). (Fanger Decl., ¶ 4.) 6. Shoreline's owners have always considered the Shoreline Pricing Model, the

- Potential Investment List and other company documents to be highly confidential proprietary trade secrets. Because they are the primary tools in its business, the owners have always closely guarded them and have required confidentiality agreements to be signed by any person that was shown the documents. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 5.) Most, if not all of those working at Shoreline or Shoreline Shenzhen fully understood the importance of maintaining the secrecy of Shoreline's proprietary information, as well as the efforts that Shoreline's owners and managers undertook to maintain that secrecy. (Gong Decl., ¶¶ 3-5; Wu Decl., ¶¶ 3 and 4; Wang Decl., ¶¶ 3-5; Declaration of Linyu Yang, ¶ 2.)
- 7. Shoreline found Mr. Sun when he was a graduate student at the University of Chicago and Mr. Fanger, who is a principal of Shoreline, began to recruit him in this District where he, Mr. Sun, resided. (Mr. Sun was attending weekend classes in Chicago.) (Fanger Decl., ¶ 6.) All interviews and meetings between Mr. Sun and Shoreline during the recruiting process were conducted in or near Campbell, California. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 6 and 7.)
- 8. On or about January 26, 2007, while Shoreline was recruiting Mr. Sun, it asked him to sign a standard NDA and he did so. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 7.) The NDA stated that Shoreline would provide valuable information to Mr. Sun:

	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
1	0
1	1
1	2
1	3
1	4
1	5
1	6
1	7
1	8
1	9
2	0
2	1
2	2
2	3
2	4
2	5

[T]he Company has agreed to provide certain information to the Interested Party concerning the opportunity, which information includes certain confidential and proprietary information that is valuable to the Company, and is the exclusive property of the Company.

In exchange for receiving this valuable confidential information, Mr. Sun agreed that all nonpublic information he received from Shoreline would be deemed confidential:

All information, documents and other communications furnished by the Company to the Interested Party ("Proprietary Information") shall be deemed confidential. Proprietary Information shall not include any information which becomes generally available to the public other than as a result of disclosure by the Interested Party in breach of this Agreement, information already in the Interested Party's possession or information from a source not known to be bound by an Agreement.

And Mr. Sun agreed not to disclose any confidential information he received:

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Company or as may be required by law or legal process, neither the Interested Party nor any of its affiliates or representatives will use, disclose or reveal any Proprietary Information for any purpose other than in direct connection with assessing the potential employment opportunity with the Company. [A copy of the NDA is Ex. A to the Fanger Decl.]

26

27

9. While Shoreline was recruiting Mr. Sun, but after he had signed the NDA, it disclosed to him the details of the Shoreline Pricing Model. This was consistent with Shoreline's normal business practice; it has never knowingly shown the Shoreline Pricing Model to anyone

	who was not first made aware that it constituted confidential and proprietary information that		
	was not to be disclosed outside Shoreline. (Fanger Decl., ¶¶ 5 and 8.)		
	10. Following the recruiting process, Shoreline offered Mr. Sun a job as a Portfolio		
	Manager in Training. Its offer to him was memorialized in a March 1, 2007 letter. (Fanger		
	Decl., ¶ 9 and Ex. B.) That letter explained that Mr. Sun would be located in Shoreline's		
	Guangzhou office with its subsidiary, Shoreline (Shenzhen). It set forth the areas of business he		
	would be expected to learn and master. It specified that he would not resign to compete with		
	Shoreline and that he would keep confidential the company's proprietary and trade secret		
	information:		
	You hereby also agree to not resign to compete or work for any competitor		
	involved in non-performing loan[s] or distressed real estate investment[s] in		
	China for a period of two years following your departure from Shoreline unless		
	agreed to in writing by the company. You also agree to keep strictly confidential		
	all corporate documents, files, business secrets and know-how.		
	Mr. Sun countersigned this letter on March 5, 2007 and promptly delivered a copy of it to Mr.		
	Fanger in Campbell, California. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 9.) Mr. Sun started working at Shoreline on		
	March 28, 2007 and has not formally resigned or been fired. (Declaration of Xiaolin Zhang, ¶ 2.)		
	11. Mr. Fanger also recruited Qiang Du from the University of Chicago. While		
Shoreline was recruiting Mr. Du, it asked him to sign a standard NDA and he did so on Marc			
	13, 2007. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 8.) Following the recruitment process, Shoreline also offered Mr. Du		
	a job as a Portfolio Manager in Training, and Mr. Du also signed an Offer Letter just as Mr. Sun		
	had done. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 10 and Ex. C.)		
	12 By their terms, both Offer Letters were to serve as employment agreements and		

5

6

7

8

9 10

11

12 13

14 15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26 27

28

each also included confidentiality and non-compete provisions. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 11.) Shoreline included non-compete provisions in the agreements precisely because neither Mr. Sun nor Mr. Du had prior work experience in the fund management business, and Shoreline wanted to avoid the possibility that it would spend time and money providing them with proprietary know-how only to have them leave and use that knowledge to compete directly with Shoreline. (Id., \P 12.)

- 13. Shortly after Mr. Sun executed the employment agreement letter, he began working for Shoreline mostly in Guangzhou, China. He received a copy of the Employment Manual and was informed that he was obliged to become familiar with its contents, and the company lent to Mr. Sun a company-owned laptop onto which he copied many confidential and proprietary files in the course of his work at Shoreline. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 13.)
- 14. In the course of his employment, Mr. Sun was permitted to view and became familiar with Shoreline's business model and the Shoreline Pricing Model on which it was based, and was introduced to its most important investors in the United States, as well as to bankers and asset management companies in China from whom Shoreline acquires loan portfolios. He also became familiar with its employees, and he was allowed to become familiar with Shoreline's actual and prospective asset/portfolio deals and customers in China.
- 15. Between March and July 2007, Mr. Sun worked for Shoreline. Then, at the end of July he purportedly left for vacation, though he never returned. On a Sunday in early August, Mr. Fanger had lunch with Mr. Sun in Guangzhou, China. During the lunch Mr. Sun informed Mr. Fanger that he was considering leaving the company. Mr. Sun asked Mr. Fanger if he wanted to terminate Mr. Sun. Mr. Fanger informed Mr. Sun that Shoreline did not want to terminate him and hoped he would stay, provided he come back from vacation leave and do his best to achieve the seven job requirements outlined in the Offer Letter. Mr. Fanger also asked him what he would do if he did leave Shoreline and Mr. Sun stated he would probably do some kind of investment business work. Mr. Fanger told him that if he did so, Mr. Fanger would be

4 5

6 7

8 9

10

11 12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

happy to source capital for his deals as long as they were not within the distressed asset market in which he had agreed not to compete. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 15.)

16. Instead of returning to Shoreline, Mr. Sun and Mr. Du set up a new company called Asia Long Term Investment, or Asia LTI (or Rongten Investment Co. in Chinese), in Guangzhou, China, where Shoreline has its headquarters. Asia LTI was designed to do precisely the same business as Shoreline in the distressed debt market, precisely the same field in which Shoreline operates, in the same geographic market. (Mr. Du did not leave Shoreline until September 2007, but began to work with Mr. Sun to set up Asia LTI before that time.)

17. It has become clear now that during much of the time Mr. Sun was working at Shoreline, he was planning and developing the beginnings of a competing business. During his tenure at Shoreline, Mr. Sun asked to be introduced to the presidents the Chinese state-owned asset management companies from whom Shoreline acquires its loan portfolios. He even suggested that one of Shoreline's partners travel with him to meet these executives. He also asked to be trained regarding U.S. dollar repatriation issues which would be key to setting up a similar investment fund. No other employees in Shoreline had ever asked to do these things. This behavior was strange for a new employee who knew little about the non-performing loan business. (Zhang Decl. ¶2.) Mr. Sun often asked other Shoreline staff for information, data and contacts that he had no use for unless he intended to raise his own investment fund. For example, he repeatedly asked Mr. Fanger and others for a copy of Shoreline's new fund's Private Placement Memorandum. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 14; Zhang Decl. ¶ 3.) He also discussed the formation of a competing business with one of Shoreline's senior asset managers, Yonghui Wu. While Mr. Sun was an employee at Shoreline, he told several employees that it would be easy for him to raise a similar fund and source deals in China. (Zhang Decl. ¶3.) On July 17, 2007 Mr. Sun suggested to a Shoreline partner that he should be in charge of communication with sellers, investors, limited partners and co-investors in Shoreline. (All these responsibilities would be key to setting up a fund like Shoreline's. (Id., ¶4.) Indeed, in September 2007, he told employees at

stage of litigation. Republic of the Philippines v. Marcos, 862 F. 2d 1355, 1363 (9th Cir. 1988); Michaels v. Internet 28 Entertainment Group, 5 F. Supp. 2d 823, 832 n.2 (C.D. Cal. 1998).

- 18. Operating as Asia LTI, a company that is not yet registered to do business in China, Mr. Sun and Mr. Du began to contact Shoreline's investors in this District and other locations in the U.S. as well as bankers and asset managers in China who are among Shoreline's most important contacts. (Declaration of Deguang Zheng, ¶¶ 2-4³; Declaration of Haiqiang Huang, ¶¶ 2 and 3⁴; Declaration of Yan Wen, ¶¶ 2 and 3.)⁵
- 19. Messrs. Sun and Du also attempted to recruit employees from Shoreline to come to work for Asia LTI, including senior asset manager Yonghui Wu (Fanger Decl., ¶ 17 and Ex. E; Wu Decl., ¶ 5.), and asset manager Haiqiang Huang. (Huang Decl., ¶ 3.)
- 20. And up until September 18, 2007, when they were establishing Asia LTI, and despite Shoreline's requests for him to return it, Mr. Sun kept Shoreline's laptop computer that held its confidential and trade secret information. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 16; Yang Decl. ¶ 3.)
- 21. By e-mail and other means, Mr. Sun has solicited other investors in Shoreline in the United States, including Asia Alternatives in San Francisco. Asia Alternatives is a fund of funds that has committed to invest 15 million dollars in Shoreline's presently open fund, as well as an additional 10 million dollars from the California Public Employees' Retirement System, one of Shoreline's most important investors, and others. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 18; Zhang Decl., ¶ 5.)

³ Mr. Sun contacted people at Hurang, a very important sourcing client for Shoreline and attempted to convince them not to speak to anyone at Shoreline other than himself, even though he was no longer an employee of Shoreline at the time.

⁴ Mr. Sun contacted Cinda, a very important sourcing client for Shoreline and attempted to acquire a portfolio of loans from it.

⁵ Under the pretense of being employed by Shorline, although he was not employed at the time, Mr. Sun convinced Hurang District Supervisor Shuikang Sun to meet with him to discuss potential portfolio deals (with another former Shoreline employee named Jianping Zhou) After the meeting, Messrs. Zhou and Xiaobing Sun told Shuikang Sun that they were not with Shoreline anymore and handed him a business card with a different company's name on it.

22

23

24

25

26

27

4

5 6 25.

- 7 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 26
- 27
- 28

manager Deguang Zheng (along with colleague Yan Wen) learned from Shuikang Sun that because he believed Xiaobing Sun to be a member of Shoreline, he had allowed Xiaobing Sun to visit him at Huarong's offices and to receive information on a 29-borrower portfolio of loans, on which Xiaobing Sun proceeded to do due diligence as part of an attempt to close an investment transaction for investors unrelated to Shoreline and unknown to Shoreline. (Zheng Decl., ¶ 5; Yang Decl., $\P 4(1)$.)

During a meeting with Shuikang Sun at Huarong's offices, Shoreline asset

- 26. Apparently, the due diligence done in Huarong's offices took about one week, and
- 13 Mr. Sun was joined in this work by Jianping Zhou who is a former employee of Shoreline.
- 14 (Zheng Decl., ¶ 5.) That due diligence was completed using Shoreline's laptop, financial models
- and other analysis tools, which Xiaobing Sun still had at the time of the visit to Huarong. And,
 - as a result of their work on this portfolio, Messrs. Sun and Du were paid a fee by the investor
- whom they represented; that the investor bought the portfolio. (Id., \P 6.)
 - 27. A significant part of the models and reports used in the due diligence are the same
 - as Shoreline's financial models used in the acquisition of portfolio "#1233", which are
- 21 Shoreline's proprietary and confidential trade secrets. (Zheng Decl., ¶ 7; Yang Decl., ¶¶ 4(4)-
 - (5).)
 - 28. A former employee of Shoreline named Feng Lin, who went to work for Asia LTI
- 25 (Zhang Decl., ¶ 7), has admitted to Shoreline that Mr. Sun, Mr. Du and two others participated in
- due diligence on non-performing loans at both Huarong and Cinda. These activities were
 - conducted under the Chinese name for Asia LTI, Rongteng Investment Co. (Yang Decl., ¶ 4(5).)
 - Further, while working with Mr. Sun at Rongteng, Mr. Lin saw Mr. Sun keep Shoreline's

3 4

5

6 7

8

9

10

11 12

13

14 15

16

17 18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25 26

27

28

Fanger that he was competing in non-performing loans and distressed real estate in China, the exact areas that he expressly agreed not to compete in when he signed the employment offer letter on March 5, 2007. He claimed that he should be allowed to compete since he felt he had been essentially terminated by Shoreline. But he admitted that Shoreline never told him he was terminated and his e-mail to Mr. Gantt on November 29 confirms that he left of his own volition: "Since I don't feel it's culture is a good fit for me working at Shoreline, I left before being transformed into a formal employee, then I started a firm with a local lawyer." (Fanger Decl., ¶ 23 and Ex. G thereto.)

- 34. During the December 5, 2007 meeting Mr. Sun did not agree to cease his actions. Instead, he tried to convince Mr. Fanger to join him in his new competing venture. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 24.)
- 35. In the course of trying to induce Mr. Fanger to come to work for Asia LTI, Mr. Sun sent Mr. Fanger an Excel spreadsheet that purported to articulate Asia LTI's financial model. It was identical to the confidential and proprietary Shoreline Pricing Model, except that in place of Shoreline's name, Mr. Sun had added Asia LTI. (Fanger Decl., ¶ 25.)
- 36. Because Mr. Fanger expressed doubts about Mr. Sun's ability to analyze and price assets, in the meeting on December 5, 2007, Mr. Sun showed him financial models on Mr. Sun's personal laptop that he stated he had used to price several portfolios for a Chinese investor. He stated he had been paid for this service by the Chinese investor. (Later, after reading the declaration of Shoreline employee Deguang Zheng in this case, Mr. Fanger realized that the portfolio he was referring to was the same Huarong portfolio that was prepared in August with Shoreline's models.) In the course of opening Excel files on his laptop, Mr. Sun admitted to Mr. Fanger that he used these files to do analysis on new distressed asset portfolios. Mr. Fanger viewed the details of the Excel files for upwards of ten minutes and saw that they contained the

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

1		limited to the financial model known as The Shoreline Pricing Model or The
2		Shoreline Debt Pricing Model, and any of Shoreline's Potential Investment Lists.
3		
4	C.	Ordering Defendant Xiaobing Sun to return to Shoreline as promptly as possible
5		all originals copies, or other reproductions in whatever form of any Shoreline
6		document or other form of recorded information.
7		
8	D.	Ordering Defendant Xiaobing Sun to return to Shoreline as promptly as possible
9		any of Shoreline's computer equipment in his possession, custody or control, as
10		well as any Shoreline computer software, hardware or data he may possess, have
11		custody of or control.
12		
13	E.	Ordering Defendant Xiaobing Sun promptly to make available for inspection by
14		Shoreline or its expert all computer environments used by Defendant, including
15		but not limited to desktop, laptop, and hand-held computers, personal digital
16		assistants, cell phone address books and memos, whether they be utilized at Asia
17		LTI, Defendant's residence or elsewhere.
18		
19	F.	Keeping the temporary restraining order in full force and effect pending further
20		order of thes Court, and establishing a date for hearing on Shoreline's Motion for
21		Preliminary Injunction, including Opposition and Reply filing dates.
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
2728		
20		- 16 -
	CHORELDI	E CARTEAL MANAGEMENTE LED 10 MEMO CUIRRORERIO EM RARELARRIA ARRIGATIO

I	II	Ü	
1	G. Granting the parties leave to o	commence discovery immediately in preparation for	
2	the preliminary injunction hea	aring, and to conduct depositions of parties and	
3	employees and principals of Asia LTI on five days' notice (15 days' notice if the		
4	depositions are to occur outside the United States); and to require that responses		
5	to requests for documents be served within five days.		
6			
7			
8	DATED: January 14, 2008.	COMMINS & WEBSTER Professional Corporation	
10			
11		By: /David H.S. Commins/ David H.S. Commins	
12		Attorneys for Plaintiff Shoreline Capital Management, Ltd.	
13		Shoromic Capital Management, Etc.	
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
		- 17 -	
	SHORELINE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LT	TD.'S MEMO SUPPORTING EX PARTE APPLICATION	